

STORY

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# SIERRA CLUB BULLETIN

APRIL, 1947

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DAVID R. BROWER, *Editor*HARRIET T. PARSONS, *Associate Editor*

Ansel Adams, Barbara Bedayn, Arthur H. Blake, Joan Clark, August Frugé, Weldon F. Heald, Charlotte Mauk, Marion Parsons, Dorothy Sandstrom, Vivian Schagen, Blanche Stallings, Stella Swenson.

Cover—May in Yosemite. Dogwood Blossoms.  
By Ansel Adams.

## EDITOR'S MISCELLANY

*Changeling.* If, having been told that the annual magazine number was to come out in April, readers feared that this thin envelope contained only the promised two covers, let them take heart. This isn't it. We were comfortably getting copy ready for the May issue when the Editor, wearing a harried expression, conferred hastily with the Associate Editor and told us that a quick switch had been made, *this* is the April number, and the annual comes in May.

Further, the magazine number will consist of more than two covers—so much more, in fact, that trying to fit it all between those covers is robbing the Editor of sleep.

## Election Returns

A total of 2474 ballots was cast in the election of directors of the Sierra Club on April 12. Complete returns for all names on the ballot follow, the first fifteen persons here listed having been elected to the Board of Directors:

William E. Colby .....	1,964
Francis P. Farquhar .....	1,893
Bestor Robinson .....	1,846
David R. Brower .....	1,810
Richard M. Leonard .....	1,797
Walter A. Starr .....	1,719
Ansel Adams .....	1,670
Charlotte E. Mauk .....	1,515
Walter L. Huber .....	1,463
Phil S. Bernays .....	1,451
Lewis F. Clark .....	1,416
Oliver Kehrlein .....	1,325
Norman B. Livermore, Jr. ....	1,302
Weldon F. Heald .....	1,298
Glen Dawson .....	1,269
Alexander Hildebrand .....	1,216
Harold E. Crowe .....	1,023
Einar Nilsson .....	985
Nathan C. Clark .....	963
H. Stewart Kimball .....	940
E. Stanley Jones .....	889
Richard N. Burnley .....	869
Arthur H. Blake .....	866
William P. Boland .....	795
Frank H. Lewis .....	779
Aubrey Drury .....	762
Mrs. E. W. Alexander .....	643

*Appreciation.* Members who send to the Conservation Committee home-town clippings or reports on conservation matters are helping greatly, whether or not a given item is news to the committee members; if it is not, they are still glad to know what is being said about it elsewhere.

C. E. M.

## Sierra Club Sponsors Contest

Some members of the Conservation Committee were skeptical. What could they expect high-school pupils to contribute in a Conservation Essay Contest? But the Sierra Club was asked to sponsor such a contest, open to boys and girls between 13 and 17, commencing with the proclamation of Conservation Week (March 7-14), and with final awards to be made at the Travel, Sports, and Boat Show in San Francisco. The essays poured into the Sierra Club office.

It must be admitted that some of the 180-odd entries fail to dispel that skepticism. But committee members who are reading the essays on "What Conservation Means to Me" are finding among them gratifying evidence of thoughtful and imaginative approach. The contest has at least succeeded in adding "conservation" to the vocabularies of a number of teen-agers; to a few of them it has brought an increased recognition of the concept and problems behind that word.

[By the time we go to press the best of the essays, each read by at least three preliminary judges, will have been selected and sent on to General Hannum (General Chairman, Conservation Week) for final judging. Six finalists—three girls and three boys—are to be brought to San Francisco as guests of the Sports Show and awarded prizes consisting of sports and outing equipment. The winning boy and girl will be announced at the Sports Show April 26, and their grand prizes will be two weeks with the Sierra Club Base Camp.]

What "conservation" means to a large number of the contestants—and likewise, it must be assumed, to their parents and friends—must be gratifying to the Forest Service, which apparently has done the best job of advertising. Most of the young writers seem

to think first of the preservation of forest lands from fire and from destructive lumbering. More than one paper depicts the shocked disappointment of a camper returning to what had been a favorite spot, only to find that in the intervening years fire or overcutting had ravaged it beyond hope of restoration.

### READING OVER THE JUDGES' SHOULDERS

Many contestants showed that they were aware of the importance of forest products. A 14-year-old girl in Aptos makes this practical comment:

"If there was no conservation, . . . the Sierra Club couldn't sponsor this contest because some of the prizes included are made of wood and a pack trip to treeless mountains would be no fun."

Cecilia Silva (14), of Scotia, knows that bad forest management strikes closer to home. She writes:

"A reckless harvesting of forests would soon reduce our lumber supply. It takes years to replace a forest. Some are destroyed by fire, erosion of the soil, floods, and landslides. They should not be recklessly chopped down. If they were, in our lumber towns the lumber mills would be forced to discontinue operations. Thousands of men would be left jobless. They and their families would have to move elsewhere. That area would soon become desolated."

Hunting and fishing seemingly rank next in importance in the contestants' world. For one example, there is 13-year-old Frank Ducato, of Stockton, who writes, "My dad and I go hunting every Sunday during the season," and then discusses game laws and draws a practical moral:

". . . A hunter kills one hen pheasant,

that means . . . approximately thirty less birds for the following season, because she sets two nests a year.

"If every hunter would think twice before he pulled the trigger, he would realize that he might spoil his fun for next season."

Most of those who write about it regard the control of hunting and fishing as a means of assuring a fair share of game for everyone; other possible reasons for game laws are understood imperfectly if at all, by the majority. The idea of trying to maintain an indigenous population for its scientific and esthetic worth is implied by a few, expressly stated by only one or two. The idea of restocking seems to be more easily grasped.

A boy in Coleville talks about hunting and indicates appreciation of the game laws, but adds a line the significance of which will not be lost on the grazing experts:

"The conservation of the forest means that the cattlemen can take their cattle into the hills in summer for cheap feed."

Surprisingly few of the contestants emphasized, though a good proportion mentioned, soil conservation. Among those who did, most seemed to have been more impressed with the desirability of rotating crops and using fertilizers to replenish the soil than with the necessity of keeping that soil in place. With few exceptions, the references to soil conservation tended to be more academic than dramatic. Whereas many papers presented graphic descriptions of forest fires or their aftermath, only a few showed that their writers were impressed with the urgency of erosion control. Are we to assume that texts and teachers have not presented erosion control so vividly as fire prevention? Or is it only that the loss of top soil, devastating though it may be, is inherently less spectacular than a forest fire?

Then, too, it is possible that forests and game were stressed because the contestants tried to slant their remarks toward what they suppose are the principal interests of Sierra Club members.

An occasional paper mentions or suggests the economic implications of a conservation program. One of the best expressions comes from Betty Hedden, in Fortuna:

"Conservation in our country is something big. It has to be because we are a big country; and because of the mistakes of our forefathers, we must now either conserve or become dependent upon another country.

"Conservation is a problem we can all tackle, through getting people interested in its importance and outcome."

There were a few boys and girls whose essays expressed, directly or indirectly, a deep appreciation of the natural scene for its own sake; they see, in a sound conservation program, not only promise of enough of the necessities of existence, but also hope for the spiritual enrichment of life.

A plea for wilderness comes from Richard White of Tranquillity:

"The conservation of wildlife and of the beautiful back country means a lot to me, and I would like to see restraint used in constructing roads into country that should be reached only by walking or on horseback. . . . To me conservation means keeping our Sierra as Nature gave it to us."

What the mountains mean to one Oakland girl is charmingly set forth in the article below, which is also one of the best arguments we've seen in favor of boys' and girls' camps.

The essay which best sums up wildlife problems—without overlooking other phases of conservation—comes from a Petaluma boy, Albert Jones, who concludes:

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"An active and diligent conservation program means to me that Nature will regain her lost footing. Deer hunters and steelhead fishermen will enjoy their sports without making deep inroads on the numbers of these animals. Naturalists will be encouraged by increasing numbers of ducks and antelope. Most important, school children will learn about wild animals by actually associating

with them and not by reading about 'deer which became extinct in 1970' or 'striped bass and salmon once common in California waters.'

"Conservation of all natural resources is our one hope of maintaining a prosperous America and a spiritual America, conscious of the beauty of living creatures."

C. E. M.

### "What Conservation Means to Me"

[Submitted in the Conservation Essay Contest by Lauretta Rhoda (16) of Fremont High School, Oakland.]

"This is *my* mountains!"

I looked up to see the four-year-old daughter of the camp director standing importantly before my breakfast fire.

What a lucky child you are, I thought as I grinned at her. Soon you'll swim in lakes like fragments of liquid sky. For you there will be the memory of the first small trout you caught; the waxy redness of a snow plant; the spindle-legged fawn disappearing into the forest behind its mother.

Best of all are the lessons that the outdoors

will teach you. You'll become self-reliant; yet as you see the great dams and the fertile fields, you'll understand that your future depends upon every citizen.

If you have the chance, "your" mountains will make you a better individual. I can give you that chance by practicing what is called forest etiquette, good sportsmanship, or conservation—by leaving this land and its resources in better condition than they were left to me. You see, my little Mountain Chickadee, I want *all* children to be able to swagger up to a stranger some day and say with tremendous pride:

"This is *my* mountains!"

### Pending Legislation Summarized

A considerable volume of proposed legislation has been introduced into the House and Senate since the March *Bulletin*. Of prime importance are the matters of boundary changes in Olympic National Park and the effort being made to abolish Jackson Hole National Monument.

*Olympic National Park Boundary Changes.* H. R. 2750 (Mr. Norman, Washington) and H. R. 2751 (Mr. Jackson, Washington) To transfer certain lands from the Olympic National Park to the Olympic National Forest. (Referred to Committee on Public Lands 3/24/47)

These bills are being introduced into the House in lieu of H. J. Res. 84 (see March, 1947 *Bulletin*), which proposes that a commission be set up to study the Olympic National Park to determine which areas should be removed from the Park for lumbering or other commercial uses; and S. 711 (Mr. Magnuson, Washington) which seeks to exclude from the Park the privately owned lands which were added by executive order. (Bear in mind, however, that H. J. Res. 84 and S. 711 are not dead—only dormant, and are still a threat even if H. R. 2750 and 2751 are defeated.)

The new bills H. R. 2750 and 2751 (identical) specify that some 56,000 acres of Park land in the Quinalt, Queets, Hoh, Bogachiel and Calawah areas be eliminated from the Park. These are the areas suggested for elimination from the Park by the National Park Service in the interest of attaining better boundaries from the standpoint of administration and protection.

The lumber interests, however, regard the proposed eliminations as an answer to their requests for additional timber lands and we feel that the two and one-half billion board feet of merchantable stumpage contained in these areas, when used up, will only encourage further attacks aimed at securing timber land now within the boundaries of Olympic National Park.

*Other New Bills in House of Representatives.* H. R. 1767 (Mr. King, California) To establish a national resources policy; to create a National Resources Council; to provide for a National Resources Inventory. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands 2/6/47)

This is a companion bill to S. 35 introduced by Senator McCarran in January.

H. R. 1809 (Mr. Bartlett, Alaska) To facilitate the use and occupancy of national-forest lands. (Referred to the Committee on Agriculture 2/10/47)

This bill would permit the use and occupancy of national-forest land for recreation, industry, agriculture and commerce for periods up to thirty years in areas as large as eighty acres.

H. R. 2028 (Mr. Hope, Kansas) To facilitate and simplify the work of the Forest Service. (Referred to the Committee on Agriculture 2/18/47)

H. R. 2028 is a "clean-up" bill designed

to modernize various Forest Service procedures. It has the endorsement of the Forest Service and is worthy of enactment by Congress.

H. R. 2438 (Mr. Barrett, Wyoming) Repeals Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities," approved June 8, 1906. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands 3/10/47)

This bill, along with H. R. 1676 and S. 91 (see March, 1947 *Bulletin*), are designed to withdraw or seriously curtail the President's right to create national monuments by proclamation.

H. R. 2642 (Mr. Blatnik, Minnesota) Provides for the setting aside as a roadless and wilderness area certain portions of the Superior National Forest in Minnesota along the Canadian border. The area included in this bill is the United States part of the proposed Quetico-Superior Park. \$500,000 are authorized to make purchases of private lands within the area when of greater extent than 500 acres. Payments to the state in lieu of taxes are provided. (Referred to Committee on Agriculture 3/20/47)

H. R. 2795 (Mr. Sheppard, California) Reduces and revises the boundaries of the Joshua Tree National Monument in California. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands 3/26/47)

This bill is similar to H. R. 4703 introduced by Mr. Sheppard in the 79th Congress but not enacted. The Sierra Club favored H. R. 4703 as it consolidated and integrated Joshua Tree National Monument into a better administrative unit by eliminating mineralized portions which were not essential to the monument and the removal of which would not impair its wilderness character.

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H. R. 2876 (Mrs. Douglas, California) Authorizes \$25,000,000 for the creation of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial Redwood Forest in Del Norte, Humboldt, Mendocino, and Sonoma Counties in California. (Referred to the Committee on Agriculture 3/31/47)

A similar bill was introduced in the previous session but no action was taken.

*New Bills in Senate.* S. 800 (Mr. Morse, Oregon) To make additional funds available for access roads to standing timber. (Referred to the Committee on Public Lands 3/5/47)

S. 800 proposes to amend the Veterans' Emergency Housing Act of 1946 to make \$25,000,000 available for access roads into standing timber on lands owned or under the jurisdiction of an agency of the government.

S. 815 (Mr. Robertson, Wyoming) To prohibit permanent withdrawals from the public lands of the United States; to provide a means of making certain temporary withdrawals. (Referred to Committee on Public Lands 3/7/47)

S. 815 in conjunction with S. 91, H. R. 1676 (see March, 1947 *Bulletin*) and H. R.

2438 are designed to place in the hands of Congress the President's present power to set aside public lands by proclamation (for national monuments such as Jackson Hole, for instance)

S. 891 (Mr. White, Maine) Provides for the protection of the Dall Sheep, caribou and other wildlife in Mt. McKinley National Park in Alaska through control of predators. (Referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce 3/14/47)

This highly controversial bill was previously introduced into the 79th Congress by Senator White, and Representative Angell introduced a like measure in the House. No action was taken after extensive hearings.

**ACTION ON BILLS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED**  
*Jackson Hole.* H. R. 1330 To abolish Jackson Hole National Monument. Hearings before the Committee on Public Lands were held on April 14 and 15 but as yet no report has been received.

*Roosevelt Park.* H. R. 731. To create Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The measure passed the House on March 3 and the Senate on April 7 and now goes to Conference on account of some pro forma amendments.

## Statement in Support of Jackson Hole National Monument

The Sierra Club strongly opposes the passage of H. R. 1330, which has been introduced for the purpose of abolishing the Jackson Hole National Monument.

Many members of the Sierra Club have within the past year enjoyed the magnificent valley of Jackson Hole as an essential adjunct to the Grand Teton National Park. The natural beauty, geologic, scientific, and his-

toric interest of the area definitely qualify the region as being an outstanding "object of historic or scientific interest" within the meaning of the act under which it was established.

The proclamation establishing the Jackson Hole National Monument reserved only the Federal lands within appropriately designated boundaries, and was issued subject to

all valid existing rights. As in the case of many other Federal reservations, certain private and State lands are also within the boundaries designated in the proclamation. These lands, which comprise a small fraction of the total acreage, are not affected in any way by the proclamation. They are still in private and State ownership and the rights of the owners are the same as they were before the proclamation was issued. No lands have been or can be confiscated; no citizens have been or can be dispossessed. Moreover, private property and incomes within the monument boundaries remain subject to taxation by the State and county to the same extent as they were before the monument was established.

If the status of these lands as a national monument is changed, it would simply return the Federal lands to the somewhat confused jurisdiction of four different Federal agencies. There would be no change whatever in the Federal ownership of the lands and no gain to the tax structure of the county. The administration and the use of the private lands within the area would remain the same.

A more constructive way to settle the problems of the county would be to enact legislation which has been urged by the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Director of the National Park Service, whereby revenues derived by the Federal government from the national park and monument system could be used to offset, on an equitable basis, any loss of taxes due to acquisition by donation or purchase of private lands within the monument. Several bills to this effect are now pending in the 80th Congress.

Jackson Hole National Monument was established for the benefit of the people of

the United States as a whole. Because of the fame of the region and its scientific and historic interest, members of the Sierra Club have travelled several thousand miles to enjoy this country. Whatever reasonable objections may exist to the continuance of the monument can be overcome by appropriate legislation and adjustments that may be necessary to meet the local conditions. It serves no constructive purpose simply to abolish the status of the area as a national monument and return the administration of the Federal lands to the four different agencies formerly in charge.

The Sierra Club therefore opposes H. R. 1330 and urges that it not be enacted into law.

Respectfully submitted,

RICHARD M. LEONARD  
*Secretary*

## The Spring Outing

Tillie Smedberg's justly famous cooking will assure delicious meals for the Yosemite Outing, May 30 to June 1.

The Club has been assigned to Camp 9, where lovely meadow and beautiful view help compensate for its "primitive" aspect (no modern plumbing, but a few faucets).

Make reservations by May 20 (see the March *Bulletin*, page 11). RAFFI BEDAYN.

## Can You Lend a Lens?

The Visual Education Committee needs to borrow or rent wide-angle and long-focus lenses for use with 16-mm. motion picture cameras during the Spring Outing. Members or friends who could make equipment available are urged to communicate with the chairman, Charlotte E. Mauk, at 958 Hilldale Avenue, Berkeley 8.



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